

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were presented and examined. Claims 1-15 are rejected. In response to the Office Action, Claims 1, 7, 10 and 15 are amended. No claims are added. Claim 6 is cancelled. Claims 1-5 and 7-15 remain in the application. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1 and 10 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended Claim 1 and Claim 10 to clarify that the video/audio packets, and touch/odor/taste packets are formed into a plurality of multimedia data frames wherein the video/audio packets are multiplexed and synchronized with at least one of the touch/odor/taste packets, which amendment is fully responsive to the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and which clarifies the claims so as to distinguish the claims over the prior art of record.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 10 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is respectively requested.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 1, 7, 9, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konrad (US-5974444), and further in view of Shibata (US-5402418), Tremblay (US-6275213), Wittek (US-5963302), Rowan (US-5341229), Serbanescu (US-20030162595), Ro (US-20020150123), Claims 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konrad (US-5974444), Shibata (US-5402418), Tremblay (US-6275213), Wittek (US-5963302), Rowan (US-5341229), Serbanescu (US-20030162595), Ro

(US-20020150123), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Wan (US-20020054608), Claims 2, 3, 4, and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konrad (US-5974444), Shibata (US-5402418), Tremblay (US-6275213), Wittek (US-5963302), Rowan (US-5341229), Serbanescu (US-20030162595), Ro (US-20020150123) as applied to claim 1 and 7 above, and further in view of Roy (US-20010036868) and DiNunzio (US-6007338), Claim 11 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konrad (US-5974444), Shibata (US-5402418), Tremblay (US-6275213), Wittek (US-5963302), Rowan (US-5341229), Serbanescu (US-20030162595), Ro (US-20020150123) as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Farmer (US-5907366), and Claims 12, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konrad (US-5974444), Shibata (US-5402418), Tremblay (US-6275213), Wittek (US-5963302), Rowan (US-5341229), Serbanescu (US-20030162595), Ro (US-20020150123) as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Roy (US-20010036868).

In response, Applicant notes that the Examiner relies upon Konrad, and contends that the claimed multiplexing means is met by Figure 3C: column 7, line 16-19, 39-45; column 10, lines 12-18. However, Claim 1, as amended, clarifies that not only are video/audio packets synchronized with at least one of touch/odor/taste packets, but that a plurality of multimedia data frames are formed which multiplex and synchronize the video/audio packets with at least one of the touch/odor/taste packets. In this connection, Konrad makes no reference whatsoever to frames and, therefore, is completely silent with respect to the limitation of forming “a plurality of multimedia data frames.” Additionally, Konrad does not appear to have any teachings with respect to forming packets. Although Konrad does mention at column 9, line 4, that a network conveys data among computers using packet switching . . . ,” Konrad contains no teachings whatsoever as to how or if sensory data can be formed into packets, or what to do with such packets after they are formed. Konrad does teach that sensors may be used to convert various types of sensory information into electrical signals which can be transmitted from one place to another, and perhaps it can be inferred from Konrad’s teaching that data may be transmitted via packet switching, that Konrad, inherently teaches the concept of using packets and frames. In

response to such possible inference, the claims have been amended to specifically provide the type of packets, and how video/audio packets are multiplexed and synchronized with touch/audio/taste packets so as to contain a limitation which is not in any way taught or suggested by Konrad.

Among the other references cited by the Examiner, i.e., Rowan (US 5,341,229 A), Shibata et al. (US 5,402,418 A), Farmer et al. (US 5,907,366 A), Wittek (US 5,963,302), DiNunzio et al. (US 6,007,338 A), Tremblay et al. (US 6,275,213 B1), Roy et al. (US 2001/0036868 A1), Wan et al. (US 2002/0150123 A1), Ro (US 2002/0150123 A1), and Serbanescu (US 2003/0162595 A1), only Rowan, Wittek, Tremblay et al. and Serbanescu appear to contain any teachings relevant to sensory data. However, none of these references appear to contain any teachings which relate to the claim limitation of forming a plurality of multimedia data frames which include video/audio packets multiplexed and synchronized with at least one of touch/audio/taste packets as required by Claim 1.

Independent Claim 7 has been amended to include the same limitation as provided in amended Claim 1. Independent Claim 10 and independent Claim 15 have also been similarly amended.

Accordingly, absent a clear teaching in any of the references relied upon by the Examiner which contain the above-described limitations contained in the independent claims, Applicant believes that the independent claims 1, 7, 10 and 15 are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, as well as the dependent claims 2-5, 8-9 and 11-14 for the same reasons.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, are respectively requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely Claims 1-5 and 7-15, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

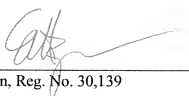
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _____

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Linda Metz

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